

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2021

The Honorable Christopher Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Wray:

On November 16, 2017, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) personnel briefed Members of Congress who were targeted during the June 14, 2017, attack at the Republican Congressional baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia, on the status of the investigation. According to FBI Special Agents, the attacker's motivation was "suicide by cop."

This conclusion defies logic and contradicts the publicly known facts about the perpetrator and the attack. The shooter had an extensive social media record highlighting his hatred of President Trump and Republicans. He had a list of names – including Republican Members of Congress – in his possession. Before carrying out his attack, he asked if the Members at the baseball field were Republicans or Democrats. Furthermore, the shooter's operational movements during the attack demonstrate his murderous intent. He was heavily armed, sought cover during the shooting, well over 100 rounds were fired, and the attacker could not have known that then-Majority Whip Steve Scalise's security detail was present given that they were in an undercover vehicle and in plain clothes. All these facts are inconsistent with a designation of "suicide by cop."

I am extremely frustrated that the FBI failed to conduct thorough interviews during the initial investigation. After canvassing multiple Members of Congress present during the attack, I am not aware that any of my colleagues present that day were interviewed as witnesses, including me.

Recent reports from both the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence recognized this attack as an incident of domestic violent extremism and that the shooter was politically motivated by intentionally targeting Republican Members of Congress.

As a Member who was present during the attack and the November 2017 briefing, and as a senior member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I request that the FBI Counterterrorism Division promptly review the investigative findings, interview all relevant

witnesses, and update, as appropriate, the investigative conclusions—including an internal investigation of how the FBI reached its “suicide by cop” conclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brad R. Wenstrup". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress